



# The Ground Plane

SOUTH BAY  
AMATEUR RADIO  
ASSOCIATION /  
ARRL MEMBER CLUB  
SINCE 1974



Volume 1 Edition 9

September, 2000

## Presidents Message

By Rudi Weideman—WA6RW

As promised last month, I want to report on what it's like to operate VHF/UHF as a US-licensed guest in Israel. I did my homework and learned that Israel is about 250 miles long...about the size of the NW quadrant of California. There are only about 15 repeaters in the whole country, conveniently they all have the same 91.5Hz tone code. There are several repeaters linked from Haifa in the north, through Tel Aviv in the middle, out to Jerusalem in the eastern "borderlands" and all the way south to Eilat on the Red Sea! You only find this out when you get there and ask the locals.

With the hilly countryside I was able to operate my HT on low power (250mW), mostly on VHF. The first few times I identified myself I called "4X/KF6RLQ for radio check please", thinking this would be universally understood by all hams. Not so! Turns out that many Israeli hams are somewhat shy about their English language skills. If you try to courteously break into their Hebrew conversation, you're likely to suddenly get dead air in response.

However, about 30% of the hams I heard would respond in good English. I spoke to guys with names like Shmuel, Uzi and Shlomo. They were very curious about how I liked their country, and what kind of rig I was using. I got some great tips on local restaurants and sights.

A word of caution. When I took my HT with me on the Jerusalem tour, I got a LOT of suspicious stares from Israeli officials of all types. Seems like they're a bit jumpy out there on the West Bank, right next to Jordan. Might have thought I was some sort of subversive. But in the end, nobody hassled me. Can't help but think, though, that my HT somewhat 'immunized' me against the rash of street merchants who were all over my other tour mates but seemed to avoid me.



With the new easy reciprocal agreements, I'm looking forward to taking more foreign trips with my HT. It's now a standard part of my travel kit, and so far I haven't had any problems at the airport security checkpoint either.

Happy propagating!

## September Program

### PSK 32 – THE NEWEST DIGITAL MODE

Come and listen to Dave Lathrop K06AW describe the new PSK 32 digital mode that is available to Amateur Radio hams. It was developed by hams for hams and what it does is amazing. Dave will

show actual signals being decoded and how this narrow band (31.25Hz) mode can produce reliable contacts with one watt of output power. Don't miss this great presentation.

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## SBARA AUGUST 2000 WORKSHOP BUILD YOUR OWN J-POLE WORKSHOP

By Al Rendon WT6K

Building you own equipment is an amateur radio tradition. On Saturday August 28, 2000, a group of hams gathered at the Fremont Community Center to follow this tradition and build a dual band J-Pole antenna for the 2 meters and 70 cm amateur radio bands.

Doug Campbell WD6GBE organized the workshop. Doug designed the J-Pole and made 18 easy to assemble kits for the participants to assemble. Doug had 'Elmers' Syd Furman W6QWK

and Alan Kittrell KE6YKK assisting the participants while they assembled their kits.

The workshop began by a short talk about safety and the torch soldering process. Then Doug demonstrated the assembly of one of the antenna kits. He had pre-cut all copper pipe pieces and had pre-assembled the coax connector subassembly. As a result, each participant was able to solder all the pieces together within 10 minutes of starting. Because of all the thought

Doug's put into the manufacturing design, success was guaranteed. Alan brought his state of the art antenna field strength meter and set up a mini-antenna test range. Each participant tested their antenna by walking out in the part and at a given hand signal, transmitted a signal and rotated the antenna a full 360 degrees. Meanwhile Alan recorded the relative signal strength and a radiating pattern was determined. It turns out that there is a null between 5 to 10db on all the J-pole antennas. Each

## "J" Pole Antenna August Workshop (cont'd)

participant left the workshop knowing which way to 'point' their antenna depending on where they live and what direction is the main direction for emergency check-ins.

Finally, Syd save the day by providing refreshments for all of us and they were welcomed and

appreciated by everyone.

Next month mark your calendars

*Everyone Enjoyed the "J-Pole"  
Construction Project.....*

for September 23<sup>rd</sup> Build an APRS Fixed or Mobil tracker. Jim Wood has put together a great workshop that you do not want to miss.

73 de WT6K

## September Workshop

How would you like to learn more about APRS tracking? Come join Jim Wood and friends teach us all about the assembly of an APRS tracker box. Jim will make a short presentation on the components of a tracker box and the integration to make a complete fixed or mobile tracker box. Then, the remainder of

the workshop will be a hands on session where the attendees who have brought the required components assemble and program their units. If you are prepared and bring the required set of components and cables, you will leave with a working tracker.

This is a free workshop if you want to come to learn and observe. Either way mark your calendar, September 23, 2000 at the Fremont Community center in Central Park. TIME: 1PM to 4PM.

# Fremont Communications Volunteers

By Wayland Louie—KB6UOK

I. The meeting began at 1935 hours at the Fremont Police Department Building. Present were David Ward (VE7DWJ), Mike Fung (WA6AWI), Elise Ciralo (KF6TQB), Jim Wood (KE6IVA), Paul Carlin (KE6NVU), Doug Stinson (KG6ADR) and Wayland Louie (KB6UOK).

## II. Program:

The night's program was a review of recent activities at the California Office of Emergency Services Region II and at the East Bay Section level of the American Radio Relay League. Paul Carlin provided a recap of the revamped Hospital Net to be held quarterly, in addition to the normal monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Nets. Paul also mentioned Region II support of the wildland fires in Southern California. In addition, Paul briefly discussed some presentations scheduled at the Pacificon convention in October.

## III. Agency Reports:

- 1) Alameda County District –The next County Emergency Coordinator meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2000. It will be held at Kaiser Fremont.
- 2) CERT Communication Teams – Doug Stinson reported that Operational Guidelines are being established for communication volunteers. A Command, Control and Communications class will be held on August 31 at the Fire Admin building on Liberty Street. Also, the Mission San Jose district held a drill for radio mapping on August 20.
- 3) Fire Dept. – Mike Fung informed the group there is a new Communication Supervisor. October 21 will be the next biennial CERT drill.
- 4) Hospitals – Wayne Springsteen (WU6A) checked into the Hospital Net from Kaiser Fremont. Jim Wood also checked in from Kaiser Fremont.
- 5) Police Department – Mike Fung

reported that a radio has been set up at the ham position for digipeating. The callsign is KE6NVU-2 and is on 145.03.

6) Red Cross – Elise Ciralo reported she and husband Jerry (KF6TQC) have replaced Syd Furman (W6QWK) as the communications liaison at the Union City Service Center. There is a 2m radio and a 2m/440 dual band radio in place, and among the desired equipment is packet gear and HF equipment.

7) Schools – No report was given.

## IV. Old Business:

- 1) Volunteer Time Reporting – The Disaster Service Worker registration submission deadline has passed. If you did not submit a form, contact Janet Valdes at 790-6691 for another copy. A reminder that the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month is the deadline for prior month volunteer hours was made. To submit hours, you may call Janet or e-mail her (JValdes@ci.fremont.ca.us), or submit a timesheet if you have one. Hours submitted after the 7<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted.
- 2) Net Control Duties -- Fremont will be responsible for November 2000 Net duties. If you would like to operate the station at the Fremont Police Department on a Tuesday night, contact Wayland Louie or Jim Wood.
- 3) Zucchini Festival -- Mike Fung reviewed the 2 day event in Hayward. 15 hams provided 210 hours of support. A lost child situation arose on Sunday, August 20, but was handled quickly and expertly by the radio operators.

## V. New Business:

- 1) SBARA Workshops – Wayland Louie mentioned the J-Pole antenna construction workshop on August 26, to be led by Doug Campbell (WB6GBE). Also, Jim Wood

will lead an APRS workshop on September 23. Both events will be held at the Central Park Community Center.

2) Ham training – Wayland Louie reviewed the sessions mentioned in the August Ground Plane newsletter that are available for anyone interested in learning more about the hobby.

3) Pacificon 2000 – This year Pacificon will be held on the weekend of October 20-22, 2000. Once again, it will be held at the Concord Airport Sheraton Hotel. Tickets are \$5 in advance and can be obtained from Syd Furman.

4) Tri-Cities Net Drill – The first attempt at running 3 Nets on the same frequency was held on the August 22 Net. Each city took a turn collecting check-ins as the frequency was shared. This may happen as the 147.015 repeater is optimal as a Resource Net frequency, so all three cities should be prepared to share the repeater.

## VI. Events:

- 1) SBARA Meeting – September 20, 2000 at the Central Park Community Center.
- 2) SBARA APRS Workshop – September 23, 2000 at the Central Park Community Center.
- 3) Communication Volunteer meeting – September 27, 2000.

## VII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2115 hours. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on September 27, 2000 at a place to be determined. For more details on any of the items mentioned above, as well as the September meeting location, tune into the weekly 147.015 Tuesday night Net at 7:30 p.m.. Ask for details if none of the topics are discussed, or put out a request for more information.

## Ham Radio Training

The CERT Communication Team is offering a series of classes aimed at CERT members with an interest in emergency communications. These classes may also be of interest to SBARA members with similar interests. Anyone interested in Emergency Communications is welcome to attend, however, if a class becomes over-subscribed, preference will be given CERT members with a ham ticket.

### Introduction to Ham Radio

This is for anyone interested in the basics of radio communication. This course is also good if you have just gotten your radio license. It covers basic radio operations, radio protocols, and a basic radio operations exercise. Learn how and what to communicate in a drill! Held on August 24th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

### Communication, Command, and Control

This is a two session class that outlines the process of information flow starting from the CERT field team, to the City, up to the County, and then on to the State. The County requirements and forms are introduced, CERT forms are reviewed, and the bridging of information on these forms is addressed. A

hands-on simulation of using this process completes the class. Part one is held on August 31st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Part two is held on September 5th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The location for both sessions is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

### Basic Antennas

Learn the characteristics of some different types of antennas, types of connectors, operational safety issues, basic terms, and the review of some easy to build emergency antennas. Held on September 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Location is to be announced.

### Introduction to Packet Radio

This is for anyone interested in exploring the basics of what packet radio is, its use/benefits in communication activities, how to set up and use a packet station, and a live operational demonstration. Held on October 5th 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Location is FFD Administration Offices at 39100 Liberty Street, Fremont, California.

### To Register

Please contact Nancy Peterson (KF6HOI) at [nfpeterson@bemis.com](mailto:nfpeterson@bemis.com) and provide your name, ad-

dress, and phone number. All classes are free of charge. (If you don't have access to e-mail, give Doug Stinson (KG6ADR) a call at (510) 353-1272 and he will forward the information.)

### October SBARA Workshop

Are you new to HF? Have you recently upgraded to include the HF operating privileges? If you answer yes to either of these questions this workshop is for you. You will learn about the different HF band and how to get the most out of their use. Rudy Wiedemann will lead us on this journey of discovery. After the workshop you should know about the equipment and antennas required and when to get on each of the bands. Keep in tune for the date, time and location of this workshop.

### Treasurers Report

By Ted Cameron — N6BFO

Total cash assets	
7/31/2000:	\$2762.97
Income since then:	\$ 35.51
Expenses:	\$ 123.90
Current balance:	\$2674.58
Projected for September:	
Income:	\$20
Expenses:	\$280

## Club Shirts—Where Do I get One?



The new SBARA shirts were shown off by some of the board members. They are available from the Keepsake Factory at NewPark Mall. The shop is on the second level near Mervyns. They cost \$28 for S, M, L, XL and \$30 for XXL, plus tax. It will probably take about a week to receive the shirt once you





# SBARA General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Elise Ciraolo, KF6TQB, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Rudi Wiedemann, KF6RLQ at 7:35 p.m. Other officers attending were Vice President Alan Kittrell, KE6YKK, Treasurer Ted Cameron N6BFO, Secretary Elise Ciraolo, KF6TQB, Program Facilitator Al Rendon WT6K, and Newsletter Editor Bill Artelt WB9YVM.

No new upgrades.

Contacts: Rudi recently traveled to Israel on business and was able to operate.

Organization Reports: SBARA Sat: Bill Rauch AA6PA reported that they recently launched 11 can sats at the Black Rock Desert in Nevada, and were able to track them. Also, the SBARA Sat. paper was well received at the conference.

Rudi reported that the Board had been approached to donate to a "finger printing device" for tracking radio signatures, and the board declined to contribute at this time. We are not currently experiencing sufficient jammer activity to warrant an expenditure.

SBARA Grant Program: Rudi reported that the Board has approved a grant program for amateur radio organizations, such as SBARA Sat., who meet the guidelines. The guidelines will be shown in the Ground Plane and on the web site.

Bill Artelt will be in charge of the Christmas dinner. The Olive Garden, Beck, Dave & Buster's at the Great Mall were considered. We are looking for a location with a private room, moderate prices, and a full bar.

Al Rendon advised that future programs/workshops will be: Programs: Sept—Dave Lathrop KO6AW, PSK31. Oct & Nov One month on antennas and the other month on propagation, presenters to be advised.

Workshops:

Aug 26, 2000, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Build a j-pole dual band antenna Doug Campbell WB6GBE & Syd Furman W6QWK will be the facilitators.

Sept 23, 2000, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get your tracker box up and running with APRS Jim Wood KE6IVA will facilitate.

Oct, date & time to be advised Rudi will conduct a workshop on how to get the most out of HF.

Tinkerer's Table included a number of CW keys, a 70m beam antenna, antenna tuner with two roller inductors, a tuna can HF receiver, a can sat and photographs of the recent Black Rock Desert trip.

The program on T-hunting and use of dopplers was presented by Rich Harrington KN6FW and Mike Allison KN6ZT.

Thanks to Esrv Horton WA6RBT, we had several items for the raffle. They included very early editions of QST and Amateur Radio, sever Amp meters, a Heath Kit Digital Training manual. The 50/50 drawing netted \$8.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

## SBARA 2000 Meeting Program & Workshop Schedule

Month	Meeting Program	Workshop
September	Unleash the Power of Packet with PK32.	"Get Your APRS Tracker Box On-The-Air", Saturday, September 23rd.
October	Practical Propagation: "HF to UHF"	Getting the Most out of HF. Date and Location to Follow.
November	Antenna Angst: "Simple Ways to Make Them Work"	Antenna Fest: "A Show and Tell Smorgasbord."
December	<b>CHRISTMAS Dinner &amp; Program</b>	<b>Beck's Steakhouse—Newark December 2, 2000</b>

**SBARA AUGUST 2000 WORKSHOP  
BUILD YOUR OWN J-POLE WORKSHP—A Photo Journal  
Photos by Elise Ciruolo, KF6TQB, Club Secretary**



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